

1 were held back until midnight, and provided the narrow
2 winning margin.

3 Other parallels with New Orleans were
4 mysteriously disappearing ballot boxes, multiple
5 voting, vote buying, intimidation of voters. The rest
6 of this is in my written testimony.

7 We strongly urge you to look into this
8 subject. I can think of no more serious social
9 consequence than the erosion of our citizens'
10 confidence in the integrity of their elections, which
11 would undermine our very system of representative
12 government.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

14 Mr. Enright.

15 MR. ENRIGHT: Madame Chairman, my name is
16 Michael Enright, and on behalf of Attorney General Joe
17 Curran of Maryland, I wanted to thank you and the
18 other Commissioners for allowing our office the
19 opportunity to address the vexing issue of legalized
20 gambling, and in particular, casino gambling in our
21 state and in the nation.

22 I have with me a copy of Attorney General

1 Curran's report issued in October '95 on how the
2 introduction of casino gambling to the State of
3 Maryland could affect our crime rates.

4 Attorney General Curran's position was and
5 remains clear. Casino gambling means more crime, more
6 violent crime, more theft, more insurance fraud, more
7 white collar crime, and more juvenile crime. It is
8 not a close call, though proponents of gambling will
9 tell you it is.

10 Thus, we would ask you to accept our
11 report, study it yourself, and answer the question for
12 yourself. Will the lure of easy cash, will the
13 problems of compulsive gamblers, the constant exposure
14 of casino workers to substance abuse and other social
15 ills, the pervasive availability of alcohol to casino
16 patrons, and the growing problem of teenage gambling
17 addiction increase our country's crime rates as so
18 many law enforcement officers, social service
19 officials, and elected representatives told it had
20 already done in their subdivisions?

21 Economists call these ills negative
22 externalities. We call them the glitches in the

1 glitz. They are myriad, and we believe they
2 overwhelmingly burden the cost side of any cost-
3 benefit analysis.

4 We would also ask you to pay particularly
5 close attention to the issue of juveniles and
6 gambling. Although our report did not go into the
7 issue of teenage gambling at great length, the
8 information we did glean demonstrated that this is a
9 growing problem. When coupled with Internet gambling,
10 it could become a dangerously potent brew.

11 Finally, Attorney General Curran would ask
12 you to consider the overriding public policy question
13 legislatures will face and legislators will face when
14 considering casino gambling. Do they as elected
15 representatives really want to give their seal of
16 approval to an industry whose bottom line function is
17 to take a customer's money and give him or her little
18 or nothing in return?

19 Those who claim the issue is one of
20 entertainment are being disingenuous. When I go to
21 Camden Yards in Baltimore, I know I'm going to see Cal
22 Ripkin play. When I go hit the blackjack tables, I am

1 not there because I like to watch the dealer flip
2 cards and take my chips. I think I might win some
3 money. If I have any sense at all, I know the odds
4 are badly against me, and our elected representatives
5 do know this. They know the house never loses.

6 How then can they condone this incredibly
7 losing proposition to our citizens? What wisdom is
8 there in approving such a scheme for our citizens,
9 particularly when we combine it with the glitches in
10 the glitz?

11 We wish you well in your efforts, and we'd
12 be happy to work with you in the future.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Let's see. That was
15 Mr. -- I'm sorry. I was distracted.

16 MR. ENRIGHT: Enright.

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Enright.

18 Mr. Battisto.

19 MR. BATTISTO: Yes. I'm State
20 Representative Joe Battisto, and I thank the
21 Commission for giving me the opportunity to testify on
22 the issue of gambling.